GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2171
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2007
METERS OF PRIVATE POWER SUPPLY COMPANIES
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether electricity meters installed by the private power companies particularly in Delhi run very fast and register excess units of electricity than actually utilized;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government against such companies so far;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the manner in which the Government proposes to check the monopoly of private power distribution companies and their arbitrary behaviour in Delhi?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) to (e) : Electricity is a concurrent subject. Distribution of electricity comes within the purview of the States. Accordingly, the Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) are regulated by the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003. In terms of section 146 of the Electricity Act, 2003, any person including the DISCOMs is liable to be prosecuted for non-compliance with any order or direction given under the Act or for contravention or attempting or abetting the contravention of any other provisions of the Act or of any Rules or Regulations made thereunder.

Section 14 of the Electricity Act provides that the Appropriate Electricity Regulatory Commission may grant a licence to two or more persons for distribution of electricity through their own distribution system within the same area, subject to specified conditions.

Section 55 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that no licensee shall supply electricity after the expiry of two years from the appointed date except through installation of a correct meter in accordance with the regulations to be made in this behalf by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

CEA has notified the Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations, 2006 on 17.3.2006.

The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) has informed that there have been complaints of faulty meter readings and inflated bills from consumers in the NCT of Delhi over the last two to three years which were primarily on account of perception of consumers regarding fast running electronic meters. Several meter testing drives have been conducted, which include drives conducted by the Distribution Companies (DISCOMs), by the DERC and also the Govt. of NCT of Delhi. All these drives showed that by and large, the electronic meters are functioning well within the limits set under the Indian Electricity Rules.

The drive conducted by DERC from 1st October 2005 to 10th January 2006 was done in association with the Central Power Research Institute (CPRI), Bangalore and the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). 536 meters were tested and only 4 were found to be recording higher consumption levels than the stipulated norms.

The SERCs of Orissa and West Bengal have informed that no such instance has come to their notice.

Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (GERC) has informed that joint inspection report of Govt. Electrical Inspector, consumer representative and licensee of the digital meters installed by the licensee does not reveal that the meters are unreliable.